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| 48. <i>Pseudagrion rubriceps</i> Selys, 1876 | Saffron-Faced Grass Dart |
| 7.Family: Lestidae | Spreadwings |
| 49. <i>Lestes elatus</i> Hagen in Selys, 1862 | Emerald Spreadwing |
| 50. <i>Lestes malabarica</i> Fraser, 1929 | Malabar Spreadwing |
| 51. <i>Lestes praemorsus</i> Hagen in Selys, 1862 | Sapphire-Eyed Spreadwing |
| 8.Family: Platycnemididae | Bush Darts |
| 52. <i>Copera marginipes</i> (Rambur, 1842) | Yellow Bush Dart |
| 53. <i>Copera vittata</i> Selys, 1863 | Blue Bush Dart |
| 9.Family: Platystictidae | Reedtails |
| 54. * <i>Platysticta deccanensis</i> Laidlaw, 1915 | Saffron Reedtail |
| 10.Family: Protoneuridae | Bamboo Tails |
| 55. <i>Prodasineura verticalis</i> (Selys, 1860) | Black Bambootail |

*Endemic to Western Ghats

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Breeding of Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse at Malamel Rock, Kollam District, Kerala

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Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus* is a widespread open land species inhabiting semi-arid plains and cultivated lands of Peninsular India. However, the bird has not recorded from the high rainfall regions in the western coast. From Kerala, the only known occurrence of this species is from Aralvaimozhi (=Aramboli) and Kanyakumari region which was a part of erstwhile Travancore but now part of Tamil Nadu (Ali, 1969). Hence, Sashikumaret. al.(2011) included it in the secondary list as there were no confirmed reports of this species from the political boundaries of the state.

I often visit Malamel (8°57'30"N, 76°51'50"E), an isolated rock close to Anchal in Kollam district. Though the adjoining areas are populated, this rock is barren except for a Shiva temple at the summit and



is a good locality for nature photography. Most of the habitat is dry rocky boulders strewn with grassy patches, scrub jungle and isolated pools of water collected during the monsoons. The total area of the hill is about 10 ha of which the largest patch of grass meadow will be close to 1 ha. During one such visit on 8 July 2012, 1100 hrs – I spotted a family of Sandgrouse—a pair of adults with a few weeks old chick in a grassy area. I was

able to take several good photographs of the same and from the images, Dr. Sainuddin Pattazhy, Department of Zoology, SN College, Kollam identified them as Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouses (Figs 1, 2, 3). It is interesting to note this species, which is not found elsewhere Kerala, has chosen this isolated rock to breed while its nearest ideal habitat is about 60 km east in Tamil Nadu. I visited this area again on 4 August 2012 and could see one bird. There was no sign of the chick.

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I would like to thank Dr. Sainuddin Pattazhy for identifying the species from the photographs.

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Large Grey Babbler *Turdoides malcolmi* and Sykes's Warbler *Iduna rama* in Walayar: first photographic record from Kerala

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As part of the Malabar Ornithological Survey 2010 – 2011 – a bird survey project sponsored by the Forests and Wildlife Department, Kerala, Palakkad Forest Division was surveyed from 18 to 25 March 2011; Walayar and the neighbouring areas were visited from 20 to 23 March. Walayar reservoir is situated at the Kerala border adjacent to Tamil Nadu. There was extensive open meadow around the reservoir, as the water level was low; bordering it on the north-eastern side, close to the Tamil Nadu side there was a patch of dry thorny scrub, dominated by *Acacia nilotica* trees of about 5 m height, interspersed with *Prosopis juliflora* and some other species of trees. On 22 March, we spent about four hrs in this patch and



Sykes's Warbler